

HOWDYA DO? OTTAWA AWAITS

AUGUST 8-11, 2010

OTTAWA NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE

The Archdiocese of Ottawa is proud to be hosting this special annual national convention, the League's 90th. A big "Howdya Do?" awaits. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the name of Ottawa? Usually politics, as it is the city where the Parliament Buildings are situated. But Ottawa is so much more than being the seat of the federal government.

The city is nestled on the banks of the majestic Ottawa, Rideau and Gatineau rivers. The First Nations peoples used this meeting place of three rivers to carry out their trading. Even today the city is a place of trading, not just in goods but also in intellect, music, theatre and cultures from many countries around the world. Ottawa is rich in culture and heritage with many national institutions, historic architecture, parklands and waterways. Its citizens are truly a multicultural mix and this is evident in the variety of festivals that are presented throughout the year. Arguably, the most famous festival is the Tulip Festival, which has been held annually in May for 58 years.

The Dutch Royal family was accorded safe harbour in Ottawa during the Second World War, and Princess Margriet, the present Queen of the Netherlands, was born here. In the fall of 1945, Princess Juliana of the Netherlands presented a gift in perpetuity of 100,000 tulip bulbs to the people of Ottawa from the people of Holland. The perpetual gift was not just to recognize their hospitality, but also in thanks for the role that Canadian troops played in the liberation of the Netherlands. The people of Ottawa look forward to the festival each year as it brings with it a riot of colour and beauty after the long winter. You might see a tulip or two popping up around the convention site, our symbol of welcome to you.

The Crowne Plaza Ottawa Hotel, our choice of convention site, will surely meet your needs. It is a short walk to Parliament Hill. For the more adventurous, a slightly longer stroll will take you to the Rideau Centre and the Byward Market. Both offer great shopping and wonderful restaurants. Every morning on Parliament Hill, the Governor General's Foot Guards present the pomp and ceremony of the changing of the guard. Every evening, a sound and light show is projected onto the façade of the Parliament Buildings, highlighting moments in Canada's history. Close by, the National War Memorial and the [peacekeeping Monument](#) are worth a visit.

For your Saturday evening enjoyment, we have planned two activities: (1) a "Starlight Dinner Cruise" down the Ottawa

River, seeing Ottawa and parts of the Province of Quebec by starlight; and (2) a "Buffet & 'Casino' Night" for those who feel lucky.

The opening mass on Sunday will be held at St. Patrick's Basilica. Founded in 1855, it is the oldest parish in Ottawa serving English-speaking Catholics and was elevated to the status of Basilica on March 17, 1995. Paintings, stained glass windows, marble altars, communion railing and statues have enriched the interior modern Gothic design.

The closing mass will be held at Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica. The cathedral, founded in 1839, is the mother church of the Archdiocese of Ottawa and Ottawa's oldest surviving



Photo Courtesy of Ottawa Tourism

church. The nave, galleries and sanctuary are architecturally typical of the revival of Gothic style during the 19th century.

On Monday evening, the buffet and entertainment promises to be an Ottawa valley toe-tapping experience. A special 90th anniversary banquet is being planned for Wednesday evening. The convention committee respectfully reminds you to be "scent aware" at this convention. Delegates are requested to refrain from wearing scented lotions, perfumes or hairsprays, as many members are allergic or sensitive to such products.

Come to Ottawa in August and celebrate the 90th anniversary of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. The convention committee awaits your arrival and will be ready with a friendly "Howdya Do?" †